

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/100 W

-----130527 061906Z /45

R 051517Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7097

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//POLAT/J-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3196

DAKAR ALSO FOR USDAO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PINS MR ML

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER'S POSITION ON POLISARIO

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER KISSIMA DOUKARA  
AUGUST 3, DEFENSE ATTACHE LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD HUGHES ASKED  
WHETHER ANY FORMAL OR INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT EXISTED BETWEEN MALI AND  
MAURITANIA CONCERNING THE POLISARIO.

2. DOUKARA REPLIED WITH AN EMPHATIC "NO.". HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY,  
IN CONVOLUTED TERMS, THAT THERE WAS NOTHING BEYOND MALI'S FIRM  
ADHERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR THE TERRI-  
TORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES. MALI WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS LAND  
TO BE USED TO DEROGATE FROM THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF A NEIGH-  
BORING COUNTRY. BUT BASICALLY, HE SAID, MALI DID NOT WISH TO GET  
INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICTS OF OTHERS. IT HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF  
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SECURITY WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS AND COULD NOT TAKE ON ANY OTHERS  
ELSEWHERE. MALI, WAS, HE SAID, MORE OR LESS "A SPECTATOR" IN THE  
SAHARA AFFAIR.

3. TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MALI WOULD REMAIN "A  
SPECTATOR" IF THE POLISARIO WERE OPERATING WITHIN MALIAN FRONTIERS,  
THE DEFENSE MINISTER RESPONDED WITH ANOTHER EMPHATIC "OH, NO, THAT

WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER." BUT ONE FIRST HAD THE PROBLEM OF SPOTTING THEM, HE SAID; THE COUNTRY WAS VAST AND MALI DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO PATROL ALL OF IT. NEVERTHELESS, MALI WOULD NOT TOLERATE, WOULD NOT PERMIT, AND WOULD PROSECUTE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF ITS TERRITORY. DOUKARA INITIALLY SAID HE HAD SO WARNED IN A LETTER TO THE POLISARIO, BUT HE LATER AMENDED THAT STATEMENT TO SAY HE HAD SO INSTRUCTED ALL HIS UNIT COMMANDERS AND HE WAS SURE THE POLISARIO WERE COMPLETELY AWARE OF HIS ORDERS TO HIS FORCES.

4. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO PIN DEFENSE MINISTER KOUKARA DOWN.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEFENSE MINISTER'S POSITION ON POLISARIO  
**TAGS:** MARR, PINS, MR, ML, POLISARIO, (DOUKARA, KISSIMA)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009